



## **Chief Judge Washington Speaks at Public Forum**

**By Kathryn Alfisi**

The District of Columbia Judicial Nomination Commission hosted a public forum in June featuring Eric T. Washington, candidate for redesignation as chief judge of the D.C. Court of Appeals. Once redesignated, this would be Washington's third term serving as chief judge.

Washington said the D.C. Courts' strategic plan serves as a blueprint for the issues that the courts should be accountable for and the areas in which the courts need to improve.

Enhancing case resolution remains the most important task for the courts, and Washington said work is being done to ensure that cases that come before the courts are resolved quickly and fairly.

"The caseload is huge, highest per capita in the country. Timely case resolution is critical for promoting public trust and confidence," he said.

Washington then talked about other ways the Court of Appeals has sought to improve public trust and confidence. In an attempt at greater transparency, the court's oral arguments are now audio-streamed live. He said civics education plays a critical part in gaining public trust and confidence in the courts, whether it involves explaining the court process to young people or talking about the role of the courts in relation to the branches of government.

Yet another one of the strategic plan goals is to build a strong workforce.

"Judicial education and education for employees is a high priority. We have tried to promote greater educational opportunities and have better technology used in the training of all employees," he said.

Washington said that for judges to do a good job, they need good information, which comes from a trained and well-equipped staff.

Washington's Statement of Interest can be viewed on the commission's Web site at [jnc.dc.gov](http://jnc.dc.gov).—K.A.